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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

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May 2, 2000

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am the author of four books and a woman of size. I am writing to add my support to Elizabeth Fisher's Petition for an amendment to SEC.571.209 Standard No. 209, Seat Belt Assemblies. Those of us who weigh over 215 pounds are in a gray area as far as both seat belt wearing and automobile safety are concerned. The law says we must wear a seat belt. If we cannot fit into the seatbelts that are standard equipment, some automakers provide seatbelts and some do not. The current law does not require them to protect larger passengers. Ms. Fisher has exhausted every standard consumer method to get this simple safety measure applied across the board.

Evidently some automakers' contemptuous disregard for our safety can only be remedied by a clear legal requirement that seat belt extenders be made available for larger passengers. Considering that more responsible automakers already do this, and that wearing a seatbelt could be the difference between life and death to a passenger in an accident, I urge you to amend the Code of Federal Regulation 49CFR451.209 as requested in Elizabeth Fisher's petition. Not to do so would be to make the statement that you consider fat people's lives not worth protecting.

Very truly yours,



Lynne Murray
Author of Large Target, Larger Than Death from St. Martin's Minotaur
Termination Interview from Worldwide
Death Flower (in German from Argument Verlag)

Cc: Elizabeth Fisher

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
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TRAFFIC SAFETY ADM.